

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology
and Immunization Section**

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**Health Advisory – Measles case in an adult who traveled through Seattle-Tacoma International
Airport (SEA)–May 31, 2024**

Action Requested

- **Be aware of a confirmed measles case in an adult U.S. (non-Washington state) resident exposed during international travel, who spent time at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) while infectious.**
 - Secondary cases would be expected to occur during May 15-June 1, 2024
- **Isolate**
 - Have a planned triage process for patients with fever and rash so these patients are not waiting in common areas with other people.
 - Patients with rash and fever should not remain in waiting rooms or other common areas.
 - Immediately isolate patients with suspected measles in airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) or a private room with a closed door.
 - Follow [standard and airborne precautions](#) when evaluating suspected cases, regardless of vaccination status.
 - **After patient is discharged, do not use or have staff enter the room for 2 hours.**
- **Notify**
 - **Report suspected measles cases to Public Health at 206-296-4774 immediately AND before discharging or transferring patients.**
 - Public Health will ensure appropriate, rapid testing and investigation.
- **Test**
 - **Collect the following specimens on patients with suspected measles:**
 - Nasopharyngeal swab placed in viral transport media; AND
 - Urine, minimum 20mL, in sterile leak proof container; AND
 - Serum, minimum 1mL, in red top or red-grey top tube
 - Public Health will facilitate diagnostic testing with Washington State Public Health Laboratory (WAPHL).
- **Manage**
 - Health care facilities should identify potentially exposed persons at the facility (patients, visitors, staff, and volunteers).
 - Public Health will identify close contacts and recommend post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for eligible people.
- **Vaccinate**
 - Assess [immunization status of patients](#) at every visit and strongly recommend vaccination based on [recommended schedule](#), health condition, occupation, and other risk factors such as travel.
 - Under-vaccinated individuals may be at risk for measles infection due to outbreaks that are occurring [in the US](#) or [anywhere else in the world](#).
 - Ask patients about upcoming international travel and recommend vaccination based on [recommended schedule](#), and other risk factors such as travel, health condition and age.

Background

Public Health was notified of measles in an adult U.S. resident with unknown vaccination history who was exposed during international travel. The case was at the following public locations during their infectious period before receiving the diagnosis of measles.

Date	Time	Location
May 10, 2024	5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) South Satellite (Gate S1), through Customs to International Arrivals Baggage Claim (Carousel 19)
May 11, 2024	7:30 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), Concourse A (Gate A8)

Measles illness begins with prodrome of fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis (typically lasting 2-4 days) and then a generalized maculopapular rash that typically begins on the face/head then spreads to the neck, trunk, and extremities. Increases in measles cases and outbreaks are occurring in [every region of the world](#). Ensure all patients without evidence of measles immunity are current on [MMR vaccine](#), especially children aged ≥ 12 months and those travelling internationally. Assess [immunization status during healthcare visits](#) and [recommend](#) vaccination based on [recommended schedule](#), health condition, occupation, and other risk factors. [CDC recommends](#) that all U.S. residents aged 6 months and older without evidence of immunity who plan to travel internationally, receive MMR vaccine at least 2 weeks prior to departure.

Resources

- **For Healthcare Providers**
 - [Increase in Global and Domestic Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#) – CDC HAN
 - [Measles One-Pager for Healthcare Providers](#) – Project Firstline and AAP
 - [Measles - For Healthcare Professionals](#)– CDC
 - [Measles Specimen Collection Instructions for RT-PCR](#) – WA DOH
 - [Measles Specimen Collection Instructions for Serology](#) – WA DOH
 - [Immunization Schedules](#) – CDC
 - [Safety Information for Measles, Mumps, Rubella \(MMR\) Vaccines](#) – CDC
- **For Infection Preventionists**
 - [Interim Measles Infection Prevention Recommendations in Healthcare Settings](#) – CDC
 - [Measles Playbook](#) – APIC Emerging Infectious Diseases Task Force
- **For Laboratories**
 - [Public Health Laboratories Lab Test Menu](#) – WA DOH
 - [Measles Specimen Shipping Guide](#) – WA DOH
- **For General Public and International Travelers**
 - [Measles Resources](#) – PHSKC
 - [Plan for Travel – Measles](#) – CDC

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